



# AN CANACH



## President's Quarterly Message—Louis Russell

From the President's Desk December 2024

Dear Society Members

We just completed the 2024 Annual General Meeting in Charlestown, South Carolina. The weekend began with a gathering on Halloween evening followed by a haunted carriage ride touring sites where ghosts are frequently cited throughout old Charlestown! With one exception (me) everyone was decked out in costume (I am sure there will be a picture in this edition of An Canach). Thanks to MaryLane Henderson and her sister, Jan Burnette for organizing a great week!

Other highlights of the AGM include an address by our Chief, Alistair Henderson of Fordell. Because of the different time zones, he had to get up very early in the morning to join by Zoom. His comments were encouraging, and he reminded us to continue gathering the Clan. The Chief is tentatively planning to join us at the 2025 AGM to be held in conjunction with the Pacific Northwest Scottish Highland Games and Clan Gathering in Enumclaw, Washington just outside Seattle.

Officers were elected this year including myself as President, Mark Henderson as VP Operations, Suzanne Emmerson as VP Membership, Vincent Henderson as VP Legal Counsel, Carol Fosser as Treasurer and Sue Hoffman as Recording Secretary. Greg Lamberson was nominated from the floor and was elected VP Genealogy/DNA.

Over the past few years, membership has been slowly declining. In conversations with other Clans, this phenomenon is not unique to Clan Henderson. To better understand why people do not maintain active membership, a survey was conducted last year of Passive Members. The feedback was interesting. Consistently, people joined CHS to learn Henderson history and seeking help tracing their family tree. Changes in their circumstances was a big reason to allow active membership to lapse while others allowed their membership lapse after they got started on their family tree, for example. However, it was clear that Henderson history and help tracing their family tree are important services that members look to the Society to provide. In the past, many members have provided articles and summaries of family/Henderson history. Continuing this effort is

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an important contribution helping to engage all members. I am also sure that Greg Lamberson, newly elected VP Genealogy/DNA, would welcome members that would be willing to help others in their search for family history.

The Investment Policy was presented and approved. This will provide guidance on how the Society invests money and it will provide transparency to the Society. In addition, the policy establishes a Finance Committee to oversee the funds. Currently, the funds are overseen by Mark Henderson, a professional Financial Advisor and myself. However, I am confident there are others within the Society that are qualified and willing to serve on this committee. Please find the announcement in this edition of the An Canach requesting applications for this position. Thank you in advance for considering this.

The CHS Scholarship Endowment Fund continues to grow. Today the fund contains approximately \$47,000 and because of fundraising efforts and donations, the endowment fund should grow to over \$55,000 by the end of the year. Audrey Trawick, CHS Youth Director and a past scholarship recipient, prepared a video explaining the importance of the scholarship program. I encourage you to view the video as you consider supporting the endowment. A link to the video is posted on the Clan Henderson website and is listed below:

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1OdE5TUy7xpA0cfIY1Bn1avPUv5Ox\\_f3V/view?  
usp=drivesdk](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1OdE5TUy7xpA0cfIY1Bn1avPUv5Ox_f3V/view?usp=drivesdk)

Merry Christmas and Happy Hogmanay!

Louis Russell  
President

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## HENDERSON CLAN OFFICERS FOR 2024-2025

- President Louis Russell
- VP Operations Mark Henderson
- VP Membership Suzanne Emerson
- VP Genealogy/DNA Greg Lamberson
- Treasurer Carol Fosser
- Recording Secretary Sue Hoffman

**CONGRATULATIONS**

# Clan Henderson Society Annual General Meeting

The 2024 Clan Henderson Society AGM was held November 2<sup>nd</sup> 1:00pm EDT at the Charleston Scottish Games, 53<sup>rd</sup> Annual Scottish Games and Highland Gathering in Charleston South Carolina. The meeting was well attended with numerous cousins at the event as well as several attending virtually via Zoom.

President Louis Russell opened the meeting, welcoming the attending cousins. High Commissioner and Chieftain of Clan Henderson Society, David R. Henderson greeted the members and introduced our Chief, Alistair Henderson, Chief of the Arms and Names of Henderson.

Chief Alistair had joined via ZOOM in the dark and wee hours in Australia, he thanked the members for their time and effort in support of the Society. Wished all good fortune and safe travels as they make their journey home.

Nominating Committee chair Peggy Sanford presented the slate of officers for the Board; President - Louis Russell, VP Operations – Mark Henderson, VP Members – Suzanne Emerson, VP and General Counsel – Vincent Henderson II, VP Genealogy/DNA open, Treasurer – Carol Fosser and Secretary – Sue Hoffman. Nomination from the floor Greg Lemberson for VP Genealogy/DNA. Motion was made and seconded to accept the slate as presented. Vote was called and passed unanimously.

President Louis presented the Chief's Prize to Linda Hendricks, in recognition for her years of support and service to Clan Henderson

*All the officer reports as well as the minutes of the AGM and Executive Board Meeting will be posted to the CHS website.*

*Sue Hoffman, Secretary*



2024 Clan Henderson Society Officers giving their reports.  
 Michael Pollini joins the Regional Commissioners as North East Re-  
 gion Commissioner



Clan Henderson Chaplain Dan Henderson welcomes Tom Henderson of Charleston SC, as SE Region Chaplain during the 2024 AGM.



Southeast Head Bodyguard Ed Hendricks, Bestows the Sash to Bodyguard Kevin Smith at the 2024 AGM

# Clan Henderson South Pacific Regional



**Christian Henderson** South Pacific Regional Commissioner / CA Bodyguard, Clan Henderson Society  
701-3735369 | hiny1970@gmail.com



We enjoyed three days of celebration Oct. 11-13 with cool ocean breezes in Ventura CA for our last Highland Games in the South Pacific Region for the year.

Fridays Gala never disappoints and we highlighted the night with a surprise award for John and Nellie Lowry with "The Order of the Chief" with distinction honors.

Saturday I promised several I was bringing a celebrity appearance and also Nellie Lowry expressed wanting our Chieftain Alistair back at her games, well the Chieftain came as a photo prop and I hope she got her picture .

My cousin Barry Morrow with his wife Beverley stopped by late afternoon. Barry has an Academy Award for writing "Rain Man" and has a yearly vote in the Academy Awards. He plans to make this a yearly tradition and will also bring his sisters next year who have acted in Hollywood as well.

We had lots of visitors Saturday and Roger Hunt( The Order of the Chief) awardee along with John and Sherrilyn McKendry ( The Order of the Chief ) with distinction awardees always come through for me and helped attend the many visitors and we even set up a second tent for them to gather. We especially would like to express our gratitude to the UCR Pipeband for stopping by the tent and playing a tune for us and all the Clans around were thankful as well .

Aiden Henderson took 5th in solo grade 4 piping out of 15 , Aiden & Danielle Henderson took 2nd with the UCR Pipeband grade 5 competition . Leslie Delaney & Karrie Carlson of the UCR Pipeband signed up to be members of Clan Henderson Society .

Sunday brought the closing of the Highland Games for Clan Henderson in the South Pacific Region for the year . CHS South Pacific Region were at 5 games and brought back the games to Hawaii and Las Vegas . My year was capped off with the highlight at closing ceremonies as the UCR pipe band took 1st place in final competition of the year !

Christian Henderson  
CHS South Pacific Regional Commissioner





## Halloween pictures from Vince and Sherri the Eve of the AGM



Vincent and Sherri at Church and Union Restaurant Halloween night.

## Gathering at Church and Union before the Haunted Carriage Tour, Charleston, SC L-R

**Mary Lane Henderson, Louis Russell, Suzanne and Jeff Emerson, Kari and Brother Dave Henderson, Jan Burdette, Tonya and Cory Nicholes, Mark and Sandi Henderson**

### Southwest Regional Games

By Christi Heston, SW Regional Commissioner



A beautiful weekend. Natalie Henderson and her daughter Lillian convened the tent for Clan Henderson.



Christi Heston, SW Region Commission, and Natalie Henderson, convener.



(Left to right) Kris Jones, Natalie and Lillian Henderson, and Christi Heston

### Southwest Regional Games

By Christi Heston, SW Regional Commissioner



On a sad note, Robert (Bob) Henderson, pictured here, is stepping down as the Head of the Colorado Bodyguard due to a recent bout with cancer. You will see him around though as he is taking a position in the Mid-West Region in the near future.



On the brighter side, we welcome Emilio Valdez has accepted the position being vacated by Bob Henderson as the Head of the Colorado State Bodyguards.

## NEW CLAN HENDERSON MEMBERS

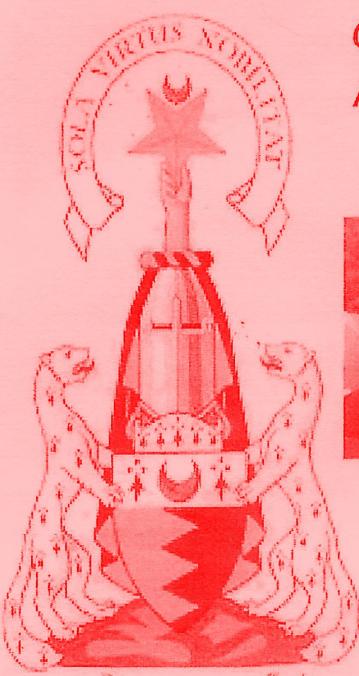
South East	5495	HENDERSON	Josh	Union Mills	NC	USA
South East	5496	NICKLES	William Cory	Greenwood	SC	USA
Far South	5497	HENDERSON	Stephen	Archer City	TX	USA
North Pacific	5498	WILSON	Steven	Darby	MT	USA
Independent	5500	GELLERT, Dr.	Lothar	Lengerich	NRW	GER
Mid East	5501	DAVIS-LAMB	Debbie	Centreville	VA	USA
Mid East	5502	WHITE	Derek	Woodbridge	VA	USA
South East	5503	HENDERSON	Paul	Merritt Island	FL	USA
Pacific	5504	EASTWOOD	Callum	Alameda	CA	USA
Pacific	5504	EASTWOOD	Rowan Vandervoort	Alameda	CA	USA
Mid South	5505	VANN	Nathan	Marryville	TN	USA
Mid East	5506	HENDERSON	Dijon	South Heights	PA	USA
Pacific	5507	BELL	Elsie Lorraine Henderson	Palmdale	CA	USA
Mid East	5508	SCHARNITZKY	John	Mechanicsvilee	MD	USA
South East	5509	HENDREN	Kim	Suches	GA	USA
North East	5510	EMERSON	Katherine	New York	NY	USA
South East	5511	COX	Davie	Fayetteville	NC	USA
Pacific	5512	CARLSON	Karrie	Temecula	CA	USA
Far South	5513	HENDERSON	Herb	Huntsville	TX	USA
Pacific	5514	DELANEY	Leslie	Murrieta	CA	USA
North East	5515	HENDERSON	Scott	Eden	NY	USA
South West	5516	HENDERSON	Michael	Erie	CO	USA
Mid East	5517	WASSON	Anna	Gaithersburg	MD	USA
South East	5518	MAYNE	Patrick	Emerald Isle	NC	USA
Oceania	5519	WAACK	Jenny	Ringwood Eact	VIC	AU
Scotland	5520	HENDERSON	Arthur John	Whitchurch	Hampshire	GB
Great Lakes	5521	HENDERSON	Joseph	Northville	MI	USA
South East	5522	BROWN	Nyosha	Mcclellanville	SC	USA

## WELCOME

# LONGEVITY PINS

Mid East	670	HENDERSON	Lyle	Huntington	WV	USA	25
Great Lakes	1268	MAC DONALD	Linda	Edwardsville	IL	USA	25
Great Lakes	2297	HENDERSON	Susan A.	Winnetka	IL	USA	25
Great Lakes	2340	HENDERSON	Thomas J.	Pickerington	OH	USA	25
Mid East	2366	HENDERSON	Donald J.	Harrington	DE	USA	25
South East	4465	DEARING	Erin Henderson	Summerville	SC	USA	5
North East	4520	POLLINI	J. Michael	Claremont	NH	USA	5
South Pacific	4679	TOEPFER	Brenda J.	Sunland	CA	USA	5
Mid East	4992	HENDERSON	Eric	Cairnbrook	PA	USA	5
South West	4932	HENDERSON	Natalie	Aztec	NM	USA	5
Mid East	4988	FELDENZER	Karen	Salem	VA	USA	5
South East	4941	HENDERSON, Jr.	William J. "Will"	Newport	NC	USA	5
South East	5004	HILL	Becky	Hamilton	GA	USA	5
Mid South	5008	KELLY	Bill	Murfreesboro	TN	USA	5
Mid South	4943	TURNER	Patty C.	Hattiesburg	MS	USA	5
Far South	4921	SAWYERS	Dan	Flower Mound	TX	USA	5
South East	4986	PRATT	Daphne Lyn	Roanoke	VA	USA	5
South Pacific	4984	HENDERSON-SCHAEFER	Jane	Hemet	CA	USA	5

# CONGRATULATIONS



*Chief of the Name and Arms of Henderson*

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**COUNCIL OF  
SCOTTISH CLANS  
AND ASSOCIATIONS, INC.**

**Clan Henderson Society, Inc., is a member of the  
Council of Scottish Clans and Associations, Inc.**



To: Clan Henderson Society Members  
From: Clan Henderson Society Advancement Committee  
Re: Clan Henderson Society Scholarship Program Endowment Fund  
Date: October 26, 2024

**Members:**

On behalf of the CHS Advancement Committee I would like to ask that you consider joining me by contributing to the CHS Scholarship Program Endowment Fund. As you know the CHS Scholarship Program has helped many students, and this program represents a meaningful way that your Society supports Scottish Culture.

Traditionally, the funds for the Scholarship Program come from the Society's operating budget. The goal of the Advancement Committee is to establish an Endowment fund that will fund the Scholarship Program independent of the Societies budget. To support the Scholarship Program at current levels, the endowment fund principal needs to reach approximately \$125,000. Because of increasing education costs and growing number of applications, the Advancement Committee has established a long-term goal of approximately \$250,000. Today, we have approximately \$47,000 in the Endowment fund.

Audrey Trawick, CHS Youth Director and a past scholarship recipient, recorded a video explaining the importance of scholarships. Please take the time and view her video.

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1OdE5TUy7xpA0cfTY1Bn1avPUv5Ox\\_f3V/view?usp=drivesdk](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1OdE5TUy7xpA0cfTY1Bn1avPUv5Ox_f3V/view?usp=drivesdk)

There are many ways to give including (but not limited to)<sup>a</sup>:

Credit Card. You can use the CHS website to donate by credit card.

Donation of Stocks. Direct donation of Stocks or Bonds can be made. Especially, if they are highly appreciated, there may be positive tax implications for you.

Donations from your 401k or IRA. If you are required to take annual withdrawals from your retirement fund, donating directly to the CHS Scholarship Endowment may have positive tax implications for you.

Leave a Legacy. Consider including CHS Scholarship Program Endowment in your will or other estate planning. Contact us to learn how.

These are just a few suggestions.

Finally, as the endowment grows, it is likely that the Advancement Committee may recommend that the funds be moved into a separate Foundation allowing continued professional management.

In addition, the Foundation may consider expanding the funding scope of the endowment to include other appropriate programs supporting Scottish Culture consistent with the established goals of the Society. Clan Henderson Board approval will be required before such reorganization. Please contact a member of the Advancement Committee to discuss how you can join in this effort.

Thank you for your consideration.

Clan Henderson Society Advancement Committee

Leon Hicks, Chairman Advancement Committee  
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Louis Russell, President CHS  
[Louis.russell@apcproteins.com](mailto:Louis.russell@apcproteins.com)

To make a donation via the Clan Henderson Web Site.  
<https://www.clanhendersociety.com/donations-and-gifts>

Follow this link to a QR code that takes you to the Clan Henderson donation page.  
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1s31T7AQ2HcXPb0p45u8gKMpaAomkXQsq/view?usp=sharing>

Make checks payable to:  
Clan Henderson Society  
96 Cross Rd.  
Clarksburg, MA 01247  
Include "Scholarship Program Endowment Fund" on the memo line of the check.

<sup>a</sup> This material has been prepared for informational purposes only, and is not intended to provide, and should not be relied on for tax, legal or accounting advice. You should consult your own tax, legal, and accounting advisors before engaging in any transaction or when determining tax and reporting obligations.



## Clan Henderson Society Finance Committee

At this past AGM, an Investment Policy was approved. The Policy was established to provide guidance and transparency especially as the Scholarship Endowment Fund grows. An element of the policy includes the establishment of a Finance Committee to oversee the investment activities.

Therefore, Clan Henderson Society has an immediate need for two members to join the Finance Committee. The incumbents will help manage CHS investments as outlined in the CHS Investment Policy.



CHS Investment  
Policy final 111424.pc

The incumbents should share the commitment to manage Clan Henderson investments in a professional and transparent manner. The committee will involve periodic Zoom meetings (minimum of 2 per year) and preparation of appropriate reports to the CHS Board of Directors.

Interested individuals should contact Louis Russell, at [louis.russell@apcproteins.com](mailto:louis.russell@apcproteins.com).

"**Andrew Henderson** placed first in the intermediate category for fiddling at the Virginia Scottish Games this past Labor Day weekend. His new YouTube channel called "**The Flying Fiddler**" (the "The" is important because there is a Flying Fiddler on YouTube which is not him) just reached 94 subscribers after 2 months. Andrew is an airline pilot, and he takes his fiddle on the road to practice and play in cool locations around Europe and the US. His favorite fiddling locations are the Druids Den pub in Rome, any colonial era historic locations, and authentic Celtic pubs with good outdoor seating areas. Please like and subscribe!"

Thanks!

-Drew Henderson



## Neil Henderson

### A Piper's Story

It was an August night in Edinburgh, and it was anything but hot. The year was 2000, and I was sitting in the stands in front of Edinburgh Castle with my stepdad and uncle. We could hear the pipes start to scurl behind the walls, the first warning that the fiftieth anniversary of the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo was about to begin. I was thirty-six years old and had returned to the city of my birth for the first time since leaving when I was seven months old.

I was born in Edinburgh, Scotland, on Friday, January 3, 1964. My mother, Sheila Kathleen, a Suffolk lass from Bury St. Edmunds, remembers it as a cold and rainy day, typical for Scotland that time of year. My father, James Henderson, of the Clan Henderson, was a piper with the Argyll Sutherland Highlanders Regiment. As a consequence, I shortly found myself in Singapore, and then Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

After moving back to Europe, I started school in Berlin, and later returned to Bury St. Edmunds when I was seven. In 1977, my mother remarried, a yank in U.S. Air Force. I found myself back in Germany, where I experienced cultural shock in the form of an American Junior High School. In 1980, we moved to the Netherlands when my stepdad was reassigned there. We lived in Hoevelaken, a small farming village in the heart of Holland, for three years.

After graduating from Soesterberg American High School in 1983, I followed my family to Sacramento, California, and lived there for thirty-five years, working first for Delta Airlines, and then WalMart, finally retiring in 2018.

I was working at WalMart when we made the journey to Edinburgh for the Military Tattoo in 2000. We sat enthralled as over two hundred pipers marched out of Edinburgh Castle. The sight and sounds are etched in my memory to this day. Finally, the show drew to a close as darkness enveloped the city. A lone piper stood on the highest rampart and played a lullaby. My uncle simply said, "Your father did that." That was when I knew that I would be a piper.

Shortly after that, my father sent me a practice chanter. And I was hooked. It was a good thing because playing the pipes is a challenge and I was starting late in life. Thanks to two tutors, I was finally ready and bought my pipes in 2005. Not cheap! I joined a band, the White Hackle Pipe Band in Sacramento. They disbanded in 2015 and I moved on to the Dunvegan Pipe Band, also in Sacramento. By then, I was playing solo gigs around Sacramento and the Bay Area and was caught up in the Scottish community.

I currently live in Rio Vista on the Delta and am active in the Sacramento St. Andrews Society, the Dixon Scottish Cultural Association, and Caledonia Club of San Francisco. I also play with the Silicon Valley Pipe Band, but I spend most of my time piping for memorials, parties, welcoming military personnel returning from the Middle East, and Robert Burns suppers.

Rio Vista is a quiet place, a throwback to an earlier generation. Often at night I imagine I can hear the pipes scurling behind the walls of Edinburgh Castle. I must go back.



## 2025 S.E. Game Dates and Convenors

Jan. 11&12 Florida Keys Celtic Festival Convener Needed Marathon, Fl

Jan. 18&19 Central Florida Scottish Games Dan & Judy Henderson Winter Springs, Fl

January 24-25 Jan Caloosahatchee Celtic Festival Ft. Meyers, Fl

Feb 8&9 Tallahassee Celtic Festival No Convener Tallahassee, Fl

Feb.14&15 Mount Dora Scottish Festival Dan & Judy Henderson Mount Dora, Fl

Feb and Bay Area Renaissance

March Weekends in Tampa Canceled

Ashville Celtic Festival No Clan Tents Fletcher, NC

Feb. 22 Northeast Florida Scottish Games Convener Needed Green Cove Springs, Fl

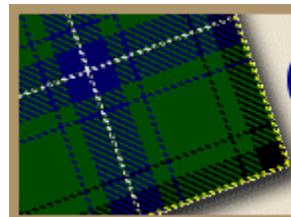
March 1 Southeast Florida Scottish Games Convener Needed Plantation, Fl

March 1 Panama City Beach Scottish Games Phil Embry Panama City Beach, Fl

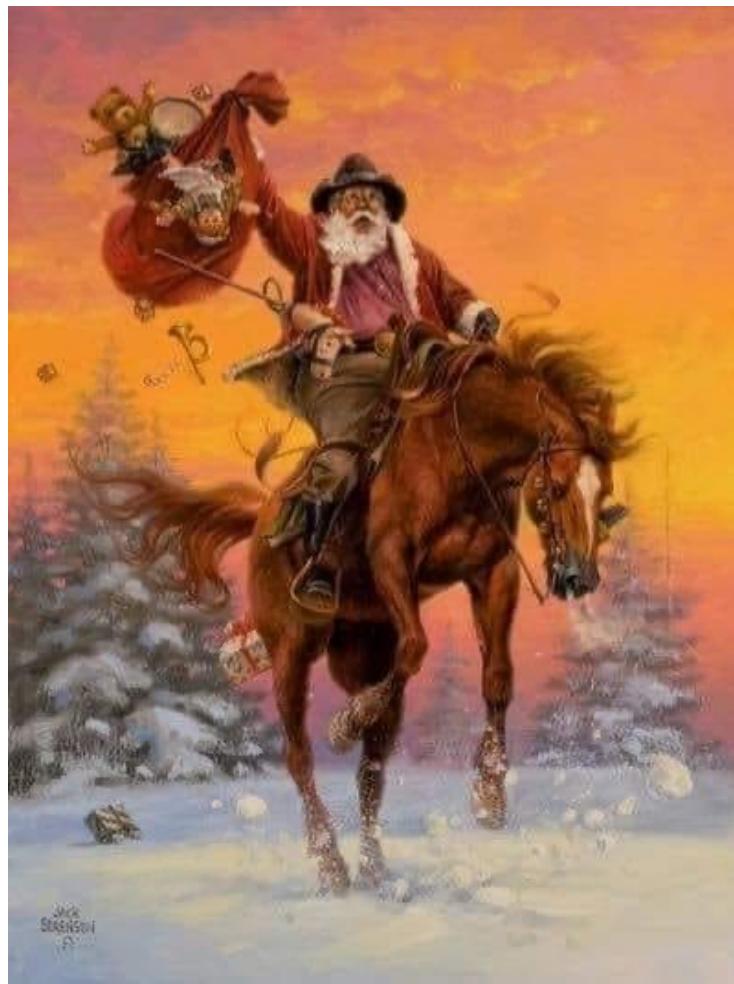
March 1 Camden Irish Festival Convener Needed Camden, SC

March 8&9 St Augustine Celtic Heritage Festival No Clan Tents St Augustine, Fl

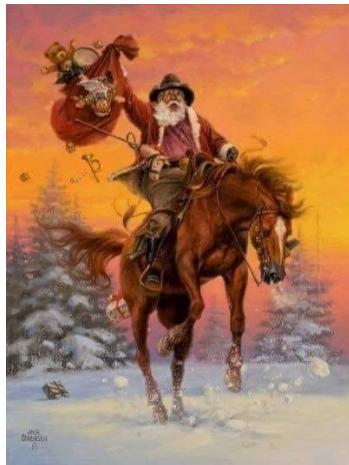




Clan Henderson  
Society



Do you have a Henderson genealogy query?  
Just send it to  
[hendersonclannews@gmail.com](mailto:hendersonclannews@gmail.com)  
For inclusion in An Canach.



## AN CANACH DEADLINES FOR 2025

**Publish by:**

**March 1**

**June 1**

**September 1**

**December 1**

**Deadline to Editor**

**February 15**

**May 15**

**August 15**

**November 15**

**Please send to**

**hendersonclannews@gmail.com**

**At any time.**

**If you are late please let me know how much space (# words and pictures) you will need and I will plan accordingly.**

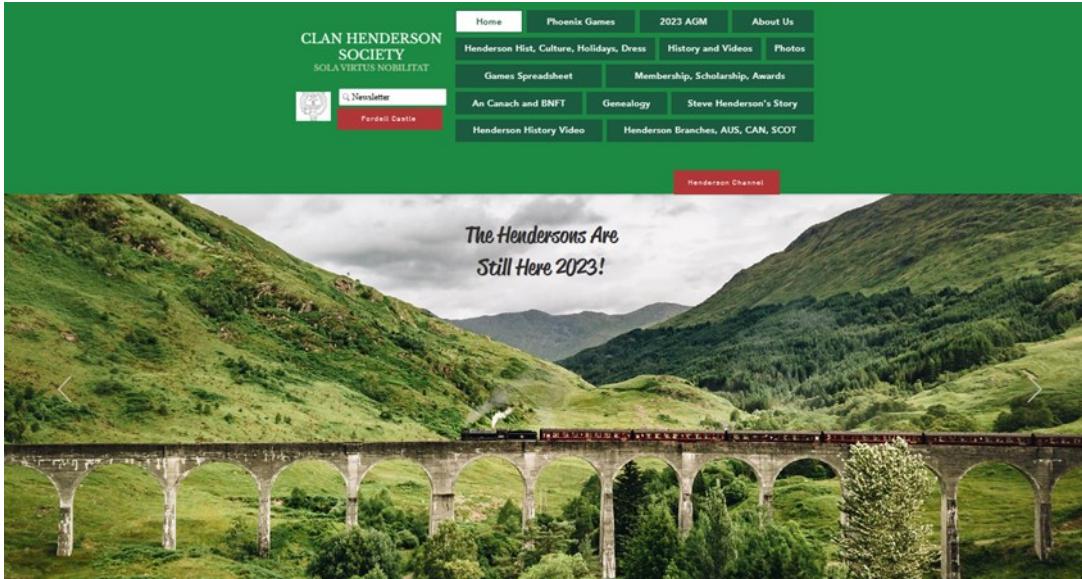
**Thanks to all Aye,  
Lawrence Henderson, An Canach Editor**

**Facebook Also has up to date activities of the Henderson Clan see link below:**

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/clanhendersonsociety/permalink/10160474829769654/?mibextid=Nif5oz>



**Visit the Clan Henderson Website!**  
**clanhendersonsociety.com**





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